Buffer Stock of FCI

†4284. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Dr. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India had more stock of wheat and rice than its need of buffer stock during the last two years;

(b) if so, the additional stock of said items as on 1st April, 1999 and 1st April, 2000;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Corporation has to bear additional economic burden in the form of carrying cost due to this additional stock; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stock of wheat and rice was in excess/deficit as on 1st April, 1999 and 1st April, 2000 against the prescribed buffer norms for these dates as given below:—

(In lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
1-4-1999	(-)0.61	59.21	58.60
1-4-2000	31.29	90.78	122.07

(c) and (d) The estimated extra carrying cost of wheat and rice in respect of excess stock over and above buffer stocking norms is about Rs. 1017 crores for 1998-99 and about Rs. 2100 crores for 1999-2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.